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Title: Need to opening up of a sub divisional office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation at Erode in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Erode District in Tamil Nadu is an industrially developed district having many industries including textiles, oil mills, leather factories, beedi companies and other varieties of tiny industries. Within the radius of 20 kms from Erode SIPCOT is functioning and hundreds of industries are situated there. I am proud to say that more than 1 lakh. Employees are working in various industries and enjoying the benefits under the schemes of Provident Fund Organisations (EPFO) is functioning at Salem. Salem Town is 160 kms. away from terminal ends like Dharapuram on southern side, Thalavadi, Bannari, Bhavanisagar on North Western side, 120 kms. from Uthukuli, S. Periapalayam, Kangayam, Vellakoil, Chennimalai on western side and 65 kms. away from Erode, Under the situation, members have to travel all the way to Salem by losing their one day's salary and one day's time. Furthermore, most of the employees are provident fund members of my Erode District and are working in the unorganized sector earning much less income and they find it very difficult to go to Salem to get their grievances redressed. According to the guidelines of Ministry of Labour, for opening a Sub-Regional Office, the required population must be more than 5 lakhs whereas the Erode District is having a population of more than 12 lakhs comprising of 11 Assembly segments. Three Parliamentary Constituencies viz., Gopichettipalayam, Thiruchengode and Palani are also come under the District.

In view of the above facts and also to render better service to the subscribers and to ensure immediate settlement of claims, sanction of advances and to immediate redressal of grievances, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary steps for opening up of a Sub-Divisional Office at Erode at the earliest.